

Good Afternoon Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the redistricting committees.

For the record my name is Tara Redfield, I am a proud 6th generation Oregonian, born and raised in Sisters. I currently live in Sisters, Oregon in Deschutes County, Congressional District 2, Senate District 30, House District 59.

More specifically, I live on a 160-acre hay farm in Cloverdale with my family.

I want to start by thanking each of you for the hard work you've put into this committee, especially those of you who have worked to produce thoughtful and fair maps. I know this is a detailed process and I appreciate your time.

As someone who is a resident of Sisters and commutes to Bend several times a week, I feel that I have a good sense of the values of these prime central Oregon communities. The population growth has expanded at a rapid rate and it's shockingly noticeable to central Oregonians like me, who have grown up here and remember the days when there was no such thing as rush hour in Bend or I couldn't hear constant traffic along HWY 126 from my house. With this expansion, it is time for careful consideration when it comes to redistricting.

I believe that the core values of my community are focused on sustainability, innovative infrastructure for a growing population, and preserving the land that makes Central Oregon so beautiful and unlike anywhere else. I have been looking at the three Sisters mountains for over 30 years, and I can tell you I have never seen them as bare as they are today - each Summer we are losing more and more of our valuable snowpack - it is imperative that we have representation that understands that climate change has begun and who can offer residents solutions to the difficulties that will arise due to extreme drought and wildfires.

To make sure the final maps are reflective of these values I would first and foremost advocate for consultation with the indigenous communities of Oregon. I believe their voices and thoughts must be a priority.

In my opinion, Bend in particular has become more of an urban community and therefore has different needs than those of its neighbor, Redmond and Eastern Oregon as a whole, which remains rural and agriculturally minded. As a Sisters resident, I believe, Sisters falls in a more neutral zone, but is more aligned with the population of Bend in terms of overall needs and goals.

Sisters residents like myself, commute to Bend from HWY 20 which connects to HWY 97. We make good use of the easy access to shopping resources in Northern Bend such as Food 4 Less, Target and Trader Joe's. In terms of the division of Bend for these maps, I believe that dividing Bend by the West side, to also include Northern Bend and the East side makes the most sense. East starting at Eagle road as reflected in Congressional Map A, House Map C, and Senate Map C.

I believe that Sisters should be in the same districts as Northern Bend and West Bend because we share similar resources and I believe these communities have more similar values.

The division line for sisters should not incorporate HWY 126 any farther West than Buckhorn Road, like it does for House Map B and Senate map B. There are many residents, myself included, that live along HWY 126 and call Sisters home, not Redmond.

I also advocate that Sisters should not be divided into multiple districts.

The maps that I feel most accurately represent the current sentiments of Central Oregon are Congress Plan A, House Plan C, And Senate Plan A & C, but I also feel that the Warm Springs tribal community should be included.

What I like about these Maps are that they acknowledge the growth of Sisters and Bend.

In Congressional Map A - I support Sisters and Bend being connected to Hood River and the outskirts of Portland - such as Sandy and Gresham.

In House Plan C and Senate Plan A & C, I support Sisters and the north and west side of Bend being connected.

Overall, maps should not divide communities with common interests, and should be connected by main transportation links.

Again, I thank each of you so much for your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start and I hope you can keep in mind what I have shared today regarding my community when finalizing these maps. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best,

Tara Redfield